

Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

FOLLOWING IS PORTION OF STATE DEPARTMENT NOON PRESS BRIEF-
ING, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23:

SPOKESMAN: I HAVE ONE THING WHICH THE SECRETARY HAS
SPECIALLY ASKED ME TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION; AND THAT IS
IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE
OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH WAS HELD IN BOGOTA FROM
NOVEMBER 14 THROUGH 16, THAT WAS COMPLETED, AS YOU KNOW,
AT A TIME WHEN HE WAS CALLED AWAY TO VERY URGENT OTHER
BUSINESS, AND IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PROBABLY THE
COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BE HERE NEXT WEEK TO
DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THAT FIRST MEETING IN BOGOTA WITH
THE SECRETARY. THAT IN TURN WILL LEAD TO A MEETING EARLY
NEXT YEAR IN MEXICO OF ALL OF THE INTERESTED FOREIGN
MINISTERS, AND THE SECRETARY IS LOOKING FORWARD TO ATTEND-
ING SUCH A JOINT MEETING WITH HIS LATIN AMERICAN COLLEAGUES
AT THAT TIME. AND IT IS A MATTER WHICH HE PARTICULARLY
ASKS THAT I CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION.

Q: GEORGE, BACK ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER THING IN BOGOTA,
YOU SAID THE SECRETARY PARTICULARLY WANTED YOU TO MENTION
THIS. WAS THE UNITED STATES, ONE, REPRESENTED THERE, AND
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TWO, WAS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE PICKING UP THAT DIALOGUE THAT

THE SECRETARY CALLED FOR IN HIS NEW YORK MEETING WITH THEM?

A: HE WAS NOT ABLE TO BE THERE HIMSELF, AND HE WROTE AND SENT A MESSAGE, WHICH I THINK WAS POSTED AT THAT TIME, EXPLAINING HIS ABSENCE. AND THIS IS A MATTER OF RESPONSE TO THAT OCTOBER 5 INVITATION IN NEW YORK FOR A NEW DIALOGUE.

Q: BUT WAS THE U.S. REPRESENTED THERE? WAS AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY THERE, OR WERE WE JUST NOT THERE?

A: I THINK WE WERE NOT THERE. I WILL HAVE TO CONFIRM THAT, MARILYN, AS SOON AS THIS IS OVER, BECAUSE THIS WAS A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS THEMSELVES. (LATER IN BRIEFING SPOKESMAN CLARIFIED RESPONSE THAT USG WAS NOT PRESENT.)

Q: WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT EARLY NEXT YEAR, ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT JANUARY OR MAYBE THIS SPRING?

A: I THINK THERE IS NO SPECIFIC TIME, DICK, BUT THE INTENT WAS TRULY EARLY IN THE YEAR -- I MEAN IN THE FIRST TWO OR THREE MONTHS OF THE YEAR. BUT I THINK THE TIME HAS TO BE MUTUALLY AGREED AMONG THE INTERESTED FOREIGN MINISTERS. KISSINGER

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